

**Minutes of School Committee Meeting 04/17/14**

A regular meeting of the Barrington School Committee was held on Thursday, April 17, 2014, at the Administration Building. Mrs. Brody called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. Present were Mrs. Brody, Dr. Dominguez, Mr. Guida, Dr. Shea, Mr. Messore, Mrs. Dillon, Mrs. Miller and Mr. Tarro. Absent were Mr. Fuller and Mr. Connor.

Mrs. Kate Brody introduced members of the Committee present at the meeting: Mr. Patrick Guida, Dr. Robert Shea and Dr. Paula Dominguez. Mrs. Brody also introduced the Administration and Central Office Staff: Superintendent Mr. Michael Messore, Director of Technology Mrs. Katie Miller, Director of Curriculum and Instruction Mrs. Paula Dillon, Director of Administration and Finance Mr. Ronald Tarro, and Administrative Assistant to the Superintendent Mrs. Elizabeth Levesque. School Committee member Mr. Scott Fuller and Student Representative Mr. Timothy Connor were absent.

**Pledge of Allegiance**

Mrs. Elizabeth Levesque led everyone in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Achievement Recognition**

Mr. Messore announced the following achievements across the district:

Barrington High School Freshman Lindsay Daugherty and Sophomore Christopher Gilbert won first place in the 2014 Safety is *NO* Accident video/poster contest and freshman Sabrina Hackett placed third. Lieutenant Governor Elizabeth Roberts presented the awards at a ceremony on April 9, 2014.

The Primrose Hill Grade 2 Team won its region in the Continental Mathematics League competition. Maddox Godwin in Mrs. Thomas' class led second graders in our region, scoring 17 out of 18 points.

During National Volunteer Appreciation Week, the district held its annual luncheon to thank volunteers on April 10, 2014. Mr. Messore thanked all volunteers who generously donate their time and efforts to the district's students and schools.

The Barrington High School Math Team is State Champion for the fifth straight year. Team members are seniors Jusung Han, Cassidy Laidlaw, juniors Adam Kelly, Matthew Lamontagne, Teddy Ni, Jusung Han and freshman William Yao. Cassidy Laidlaw received a perfect score at the competition. The Math Team had over 30 student participants this year that include senior Miguel Gozalo, juniors Gerald Guerrieri, Brian Mc Gartoll, Kieran Mc Gartoll, Lucy Schwartz, and Haley Wohlever, sophomores Sahil Mishra, Colin Patton, CeeCee Sheng and Vivian Tian, and freshmen Michael Chung and Eli Shea.

The Barrington Middle School Team placed first in the 2014 Rhode Island Science Olympiad competition. The results are: First Place: Dynamic Planet - Michael Lamontagne and Callan Whitney; Experimental Design - Ryan Brady, Sam Chavez, and Dominic Portelli; Heredity - Zoe Collins and Abigail Wilhelm ; Metric Mastery - Eliot Laidlaw and Annika Kelly; Road Scholar - Katherine Wind and Eleanor Wind; Rocks and Minerals - Michael Lamontagne and Eleanor Wind; Solar System - Eliot Laidlaw and Michael Lamontagne; Sounds of Music - James Winner and Dominic Portelli; Wheeled Vehicle - Eliot Laidlaw and Conor Mc Gartoll. Second Place winners include: Anatomy - Annika Kelly

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and Abigail Wilhelm; Can't Judge A Powder - James Winner and Elizabeth Enos; Crime Busters - Zoe Collins and Abigail Wilhelm; Rotor Egg Drop - James Winner and Callan Whitney; and Quiz Bowl - Sudiksha Mallick. Third Place winners include: Invasive Species - Jaya Gottlieb and Sudiksha Mallick.

Hampden Meadows School won the most awards in the State in the Library of Congress Letters About Literature contest. Grade 5 student Kelly Gorman is the Level 1 State winner, and Grade 4 student Morgan Alverson and Grade 5 student Nicole Fitzpatrick are Level 1 Honorable Mentions.

Zachary Zeltzer, a 5<sup>th</sup> grade student at Hampden Meadows School, received a Certificate of Special Congressional Recognition and Honorable Mention from Congressman James R. Langevin in the 2014 Rhode Island Federal Junior Duck Stamp Competition.

**Information and Proposals**

Mrs. Dillon overviewed the assessment schedule by grade level for the 2014-2015 academic year. Dr. Dominguez asked how the time spent by students on state level exams is tracked and Mr. Guida asked when science testing will be aligned to the Next Generation Science Standards. Mrs. Dillon provided an update on the purpose of assessment literacy through Solution Tree and included a leadership and teacher overview for 2013-2014 and requirements and recommendations to advance the work in 2015 and beyond. With the district now having had experience with Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers (PARCC) pilot testing, Mrs. Brody asked what feedback could be shared about the district experience. Mrs. Dillon replied that feedback on technology was positive while testing on paper did not deliver the same results, and that the math assessments were particular challenging for students. Mrs. Brody expressed concern for the lack of academic integrity if students are given access to sites for possible cheating during test administration. Mrs. Miller confirmed that student access to additional sites is restricted during test administration.

Mrs. Dillon presented information on the state assessment options for the Class of 2014 and reviewed the updated graduation policy that contains additional language on granting waivers to the state assessment graduation requirement and incorporates language supplied by the Rhode Island Department of Education. Mrs. Dillon provided information on how the graduation policy affects students and options to replace the New England Common Assessment Program (NECAP) requirement. Discussion ensued on NECAP scoring for students retaking the test, how many students are currently affected, and the evaluation of trends.

Mrs. Miller provided an update on the Technology capital strategy for FY2015. Mrs. Miller reviewed the five essential areas of the National Educational Technology Plan and the Barrington Public Schools Technology Plan and shared the compelling reasons for 1:1 devices for all students. Mrs. Miller highlighted the advantages for the use of Chromebooks as well as the tradeoffs. The proposed FY15 technology capital budget totals \$274,650. Discussion included the District Strategic Plan rollout of technology, use of Google products, creation of a Google drive for each user, continuation of the current email exchange system, a potential pilot program for implementing 1:1, faculty immersion in technology, and learning spaces.

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**General Public Discussion and Information**

Mrs. Cynthia Armour Coyne, Town Council liaison to the School Committee, announced that the topic of the proposed cell tower will be on the Town Council's next agenda only to tie up loose ends. AT&T Mobility Corporation has since withdrawn its proposal. The next Town Council meeting is scheduled for May 5, 2014.

**Old Business from Superintendent and Staff**

Mr. Messore reported that interviews with the two lowest bidders for the consulting services for a communication/media specialist will begin in late April. Implementation of services may begin before the end of the school year if a consultant is selected by the Administration.

**Old Business from School Committee**

Mrs. Brody read into the record the letter received from Brown Rudnick LLP on April 14, 2014 on behalf of AT&T Mobility Corporation on the decision to withdraw its proposal request to construct a wireless telecommunications facility on the Sowams School property. The School Committee had planned to vote at this meeting following input from the community at large heard at the April 3, 2014 School Committee meeting. Mrs. Brody offered this opportunity for the Committee to share their opinions. Mr. Guida stressed the importance of the safety of the children and expressed his disappointment that current science data was not made available for review. Dr. Shea agreed that very little was heard on science data and noted that he could not have supported the cell tower on school property as it offered no educational benefit. Dr. Dominguez stressed that the safety of the children is of concern, adding that it was a straightforward decision to not support a cell tower anywhere near or on school property. Mrs. Brody also stated that she would not have supported the proposed cell tower in order to protect the health and safety of the students during school as well as during use of the greenway and the baseball fields. Mr. Messore expects to have advice from counsel later this month on identification of the decision-making body, either municipal or schools, for these types of proposals.

Mr. Tarro reported that the specifications have been completed to address both the immediate health and safety needs during the summer and the Office for Civil Rights requirements due in June. The Building Committee is scheduled to meet on May 8, 2014. Mr. Guida acknowledged that the demand for construction throughout the state will outpace resources over the next several years and that the district will need to be creative in its approach to projects. As a follow up to concerns shared at the last School Committee meeting, Mr. Tarro stated that the mulching concerns at the school playgrounds have been addressed to create a safer playing environment and that the Director of Facilities, Mr. Skip Learned, is obtaining quotes to replace the front door of the Sowams School.

The School Committee policy on Field Trips was read aloud for a second reading. Following a brief discussion,

**Dr. Dominguez moved and Mr. Guida seconded to adopt the policy on Field Trips. The motion passed 4-0 with Mrs. Brody, Dr. Dominguez, Mr. Guida and Dr. Shea voting in the affirmative for the motion.**

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**New Business from Superintendent and Staff**

**Dr. Dominguez moved and Mr. Guida seconded, with regret, to accept the retirement of Carroll Garland, SO, Enrichment Specialist and Literacy Coach.**

Mr. Guida expressed his gratitude to Mrs. Garland for her many years in enrichment and literacy and role as a model teacher.

**The motion passed 4-0 with Mrs. Brody, Dr. Dominguez, Mr. Guida and Dr. Shea voting in the affirmative for the motion.**

**Dr. Dominguez moved and Mr. Guida seconded, with regret, to accept the retirement of Patricia Gluek, HM, Grade 4.**

Mrs. Brody thanked Mrs. Gluek for her tremendous impact on student learning in the district.

**The motion passed 4-0 with Mrs. Brody, Dr. Dominguez, Mr. Guida and Dr. Shea voting in the affirmative for the motion.**

**New Business from School Committee**

The Barrington Educational Support Staff Team/NEARI/NEA (BEST) contract for July 1, 2014 through June 30, 2017 was presented for discussion and approval. Mr. Tarro provided the Committee with a fiscal impact statement and overviewed the savings that this contract represents to the overall operating budget.

**Mr. Guida moved and Dr. Dominguez seconded to approve the BEST contract as proposed by the negotiating team for the period of July 1, 2014 through June 30, 2017. The motion passed 4-0 with Mrs. Brody, Dr. Dominguez, Mr. Guida and Dr. Shea voting in the affirmative for the motion.**

Mr. Tarro provided the Committee with the proposed operating budget document adjusted as of April 17, 2014. Due to savings with the medical insurance renewal, retirements, the BEST contract, and utilities, the current proposed FY15 budget increase is 2.69% totaling \$1,218,323 with a net impact to taxpayers of 0.98%, a total of \$445,834. The proposed FY15 budget includes the implementation of All Day Kindergarten.

**Decision Items**

Mrs. Brody requested that the meeting minutes of April 2, 2014 be removed from the consent agenda.

**Dr. Dominguez moved and Mr. Guida seconded to remove the open meeting minutes of April 2, 2014 from the consent agenda. The motion passed 4-0 with Mrs. Brody, Dr. Dominguez, Mr. Guida and Dr. Shea voting in the affirmative for the motion.**

**Dr. Dominguez moved and Mr. Guida seconded to approve the consent agenda. The**

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**motion passed 4-0 with Mrs. Brody, Dr. Dominguez, Mr. Guida and Dr. Shea voting in the affirmative for the motion.**

**Discussion Future Agenda Items**

Mrs. Brody requested that a future agenda include a concussion protocol update from Mr. George Finn, Athletic Director. Mr. Messore stated that Mr. Finn will be invited to the next meeting on May 1, 2014.

Mrs. Brody requested that a future agenda include an update from the Advisory Committee.

**General Discussion to Guide Future Recommendations**

Mr. Messore reported that the next regular meeting of the School Committee on Thursday, May 1, 2014 will feature an update on the Strategic Plan SmartSheet and a presentation from representatives of the BAY Team.

Mrs. Brody noted that the Rhode Island Association of School Committees Annual Conference will be held on May 3, 2014. The School Committee is scheduled to continue its Governance Workshop with two sessions on May 10, 2014. Mrs. Brody thanked the administration for their collaboration during these workshops.

**General Public Discussion and Information**

Mr. Guida announced the Board of Education's decision on the case of Ms. Kelly McKenney vs. Barrington Public Schools noting that the Rhode Island Department of Education Commissioner's decision for termination had been affirmed.

**Dr. Dominguez moved and Mr. Guida seconded to adjourn the regular meeting at 10:02 p.m. and go into Executive Session pursuant to Rhode Island General Laws Section 42-46-5(a)(1) for personnel and Section 42-46-5(a)(3) for discussion relative to school buildings security issues. The motion passed 4-0 with Mrs. Brody, Dr. Dominguez, Mr. Guida and Dr. Shea voting in the affirmative for the motion.**

**Dr. Dominguez moved and Dr. Shea seconded to adjourn the Executive Session at 10:25 p.m. and to seal the minutes and report that no votes were taken. The motion passed 4-0 with Mrs. Brody, Dr. Dominguez, Mr. Guida and Dr. Shea voting in the affirmative for the motion.**

**Dr. Dominguez moved and Dr. Shea seconded to adjourn the regular meeting at 10:26 p.m. The motion passed 4-0 with Mrs. Brody, Dr. Dominguez, Mr. Guida and Dr. Shea voting in the affirmative for the motion.**